The History of Native American Studies at the University of California Riverside

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Native American Studies at the University of California Riverside is a program of which the University, and the local native community can be proud. Located in the Inland Empire of Southern California east of Los Angeles, the University of California’s 1,200-acre campus lies at the foot of the Box Springs Mountains in Riverside, a city of about 255,000 people. The origins of the campus date back to 1907 when the University of California Citrus Experiment Station was established in Riverside to conduct research benefiting Southern California agriculture. In 1954, the College of Letters and Science opened for classes. In 1959, UCR became a general campus, adding graduate and professional studies. Located within the region are several native nations, namely, the Cahuillas, Serranos, Chememhuevis, Luiseños, Kumeyaay, Cupéños, Mojave, Gabrieleno, Chumash and Tongva. The University is also in close proximity to Los Angeles, a city with the largest native population of any city in the United States located in the state second only to Alaska in the number of federally recognized tribes. California also has the most tribes seeking recognition and, according to the 2000 Census, the largest Native American population of any state. These factors link together to locate the University in a remarkably rich Native American cultural area.

One of the primary links between the extensive local native population and UCR has been the involvement of Rupert and Jeanette Costo. Rupert Costo (Cahuilla) and his wife Jeanette (Eastern Cherokee) are well known for the American Indian Historical Society, which they founded in 1964. The Society and the Costos strongly promoted the study of American Indian History. They

This fine catalog of books was joined in 1964 by the first issue of *The Indian Historian*. This journal was created in order “to correct the record, to write history as it should be written, to interpret correctly the aboriginal past, to report honestly the immense contributions to modern society made by the Indian American.” This journal, which involved leading academic consultants of the day (Sol Tax, William Sturtevant, Omer Stewart, Lowell Bean, Carl Sauer), lasted eighteen years and reached tens of thousands of people. In 1973, they started *Wassaja*, a national newspaper of Indian America. The name came from the Yavapai name of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, “whose life was dedicated to the struggle for our people for self-determination.”

Early on, the Society and the Costos had also created a for-profit press, the Indian Historian Press. It published and reprinted dozens of titles, including those by the Costos (listed above) and titles such as Denton Bedford’s *Tsali* (1972), Joseph Senungetuck’s *Give or Take A Century, an Eskimo Saga* (1971), Alolph L. Dial and David K. Eliades’s *The Only Land I Know: A History of the Lumbee Indians* (1975), Donald M. Bahr’s *Pima and Papago Ritual Oratory: A Study of Three Texts* (1975), James La Pointe’s *Legends of the Lakota* (1976), Joe S. Sando’s *The Pueblo Indians* (1976), Donald A. Grinde, Jr.’s *The Iroquois and the Founding of the American Nation* (1977), and Jack Norton’s *Genocide in Northwestern California* (1979).

Rupert Costo’s influence, along with that of Judge John Gabbert, was instrumental in persuading the University of California system to place a university in Riverside. The Costos were also instrumental in developing the thriving Native American academic community at the University. A major component in the development of this community was the close relationship among the University administration, the Costos and local native communities, all of whom have invested time and effort to ensure the success of the unique program we have today.

The Costos’ involvement with the university and the program has been of vital importance. It is through the Costos’ generous support that the University of California, Riverside is able to boast several invaluable resources, such as the Costa Chair, the Costa Historical and Linguistics Research Center, and the Costa Library. The initial developments that led to the Costa collection coming to UCR began in the 1970s when various members of the library staff and then
Chancellor Tomás Rivera began negotiations with the Costos to transfer the library and the archives to UCR. The Costo Library of the American Indian was dedicated in 1986 during a multiple event ceremony at which then UCR Chancellor Collier stated that the Costos had given UCR “a challenge for our future.” However, the Costos did not relinquish all input on the collections development after the ceremony. The Costos remained active in the structure and development of the collection up to their deaths. Rupert Costo neatly summed up the Costos’ attitude during his speech at the dedication ceremony when he stated that although they had handed over the ball to UCR they “were not expecting him (Chancellor Collier) to fumble and they would both be on the sidelines to make sure he didn’t.”

In February 2002, the Costo library reading room was rededicated and relocated to a new 1470 square feet home within the Tomás Rivera Library. The Rupert Costo Library of the American Indian contains about 7,000 volumes and more than 9,000 documents, pamphlets, tape recordings, slides and artwork, and is one of the most important collections of research materials relating to Native Americans in the United States. A section of the collection is shelved in the earlier mentioned reading room while rarer items, such as old books, art albums, and booklets issued by individual tribes and researchers are held in the Special Collections. The Library also holds documents and private correspondence collected directly from individuals and Indian tribal leaders. In addition, well over 1,000 boxes of data about Indian water rights, legal, social, and historical issues, and other rare works, such as framed pictures of original Native American artwork, prints and photos, baskets and pottery all form part of the Costo library’s holdings. The Library continues to grow, most recently with the acquisition of the Dobrin Collection that consists of about 500 videos from modern Canada. Many were made by First Nations communities and provide valuable views into modern issues and concerns of First Nations peoples in Canada. Following a recent four-month operation the entire archival collection has now been made available on microfilm, ensuring its continued availability and use. The quality and content of the Costo collection ensure that many researchers could wisely begin their quests here. This applies especially to teachers, scholars, students, and tribal members interested in Native activism, tribal politics between 1935 and 1980, the civil rights era in American history, the politics of representation, Native intellectual history and sovereignty, the story of California Indians, and the Costos themselves.

The Rupert Costo Endowed Chair in American Indian History, endowed in 1987, was the first endowed Chair in American Indian History in North America. Professor Joel Martin is the first permanent holder and joins a long and illustrious chain of academics who held the position on a revolving basis including:

1987-1988 Florence Shipek
1988-1989 George Harwood Phillips
1989-1991 Donald Grinde
1991-1993 Richard Glazer-Danay
1993-1997 Cheryl A. Metoyer-Duran
1997-1999 Jack Norton (Hoopa)

As well as teaching classes during their time at UCR, three Costo chairs—Shipek, Phillips, and Norton—published books on California Indians.

The Costos are honored on campus in a number of ways. Costa Hall is a section of the student Commons building, which houses various social and academic clubs and in many ways is the center of the student community at the University of California, Riverside. One of the many offices in Costa Hall is that of the earlier mentioned Native American Student Association (NASA). Earl Dean Sisto (Apache) has been the Director of NASA since his arrival from UCLA in 1991. Initially in place before the instigation of the Native American Studies Program, NASA began in its present form in 1986. Since then, NASA has provided educational, cultural, and social support for American Indian students. This office coordinates a variety of activities designed to expand educational awareness for American Indian students as well as the campus community. Such activities and projects include the American Indian Academic Speaker Series and the annual Medicine Ways Conference and Pow Wow, which has taken place every May for twenty years. Information for and about natives is disseminated by NASA by a variety of means, including the “Indian Time” radio program broadcast once a week on the campus radio station, and also through the Indian Times newspaper. Students and alumni run the newspaper, which contains information on national and world issues, local California issues, a calendar of events and details of the outreach programs from the university. Approximately 1500 copies are mailed throughout the country three times a year. The link between alumni and current students is also seen in the existence of Mountain Hawk, a native singing group that involves local high school students and UCR students, in an attempt to teach pow wow protocols and offer educational and spiritual instruction and involvement. In addition, the Native American Student Programs Office provides a link to the wide array of student services and special programs available to UCR students. The Native American Student Programs Office and the Native American Student Association are dedicated to providing a supportive environment in which American Indian students may reach academic and personal goals while maintaining their cultural identity. For further information contact Earl Sisto on (714) 787-4183.

The following events highlight the growth of the program:

1988-2002: Professor Cliff Trafzer served as a Commissioner for the California Native American Heritage Commission, protecting native remains, sacred places, and other cultural resources.
1990: B.A. in ethnic studies with an emphasis in Native American studies.
1991: The appointment of two full time faculty members in Native American studie—Professor Cliff Trafzer (Wyndot), a joint appointment in history
and ethnic studies, and Professor Rebecca 'Monte' Kugel (Ojibwe) in history.

Selected courses created in Native American studies through the ethnic studies program, history, and anthropology: 1) History of Indians of the Northwest; 2) History of Indians of the Southwest; 3) History of California Indians; 4) American Indian Policies 5) Native American Oral Traditions; 6) Native American Literature; 7) History of American Indians to 1830; 8) History of American Indians since 1830; 9) Indians of North America; 10) Indians of California; 11) Indians of the Southwest; 12) Senior Seminars in History on topics concerning Native America; 13) Changing Interpretations in Native American History. In addition, the department of anthropology created numerous courses dealing with Indian people of Latin America. Our program emphasizes Indian peoples of North, South, and Central America.

1992: Publication of dear Christopher, a book and voice of contemporary Native Americans.

1994: National Symposium on Oral Literature as History, supported by grants from UCR, University of California Office of the President, and Stanford University.


Catalog of the Costo Papers, Rivera Library, UCR, overseen by Costo Chair Cheryl Metoyer-Duran (Cherokee) by Dawn Marsh; assisted by Jayne Liera (Cahuilla), who helped students access the Costo Collection and organize part of it.

1998: Ph.D. and M.A. in Native American history through the history department. The Departments of anthropology, dance, literature, and sociology have also graduated students specializing in American Indian studies.

2000: The arrival of Prof. Joel Martin as the first full time holder of the Costo Chair

2001: The arrival of Professor Michelle Raheja (Seneca), a Native American specialist in the English department.

Located at the fastest growing and most diverse campus in the UC system, the Native American Studies program at the University of California, Riverside comprises more than forty courses distributed across many departments. A strong concentration of faculty in history supports one of the country's most highly regarded Ph.D. programs in Native American history, as well as a new M.A. program. Efforts are underway to offer an M.A. and Ph.D. in Native American Studies as well, tapping full-time faculty. Currently there are five full-time faculty members involved in the program covering anthropology, dance, English, ethnic studies, and religious studies. They are supported by a number of other members of the faculty in the history and anthropology departments who teach and have an interest in Native American issues. UCR's ethnic studies department is currently conducting a search for a specialist in the field of Native American studies. (see end of article for faculty bios).

The University and the program continue to have strong links to various local native communities, including San Manuel, Twenty-Nine Palms, Cabazon,
Chemehuevi, Agua Caliente, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla, Pechanga, and Morongo. Another strong local link from the Indian community comes in the form of the University’s ongoing relationship with Katherine Siva Saubel (Cahuilla). As a University of California Regents Lecturer during 1990, Saubel taught courses on the culture of the Cahuilla people, of whom she is tribal chair, and she remains a strong supporter of the university. In April 2002, Saubel will be honored for her work with both the University and the local Indian community when she will be awarded the University of California’s Chancellor’s medal, the highest honor that the University of California can bestow upon any individual. The event will include a symposia featuring California Indians, and a play on Saubel’s life, “We Are Still Here.”

A further link to the local Indian community, and an important contribution to the native academic community at UCR, is the planned building of the Center for California Native Nations. This development, which has the support of the head of the Humanities division, Dean O’Brien, and commitments of “hard money” from both local native nations and the UC system, is intended to provide a center of research excellence for studies of the local native nations. The broad aim of the Center for California Native Nations is to advance scholarly research focussed on the rich and diverse Native American culture of California. In doing so, the center will provide opportunities for research collaborations with California’s native people that will benefit tribal communities and expand scholarly research in the field of native nations.

It is anticipated that by using an interdisciplinary approach, combining a mixture of curriculum, residential programs, conferences, publications, archives and web-based media to engage and inform policy-makers about the implications of governmental and corporate action, the center will encourage original research important to California’s native nations by Native Americans, University of California faculty, and graduate and post-graduate students.

Areas of research will include:

- Economic development and diversification
- Environment, with an emphasis on resource, land use, pollution, contamination or repatriated items, and earthquakes
- Education, with a focus on opening higher education to underrepresented native peoples
- History, with a focus on policies, social change, racial issues, laws and public history
- Culture, with a focus on language preservation, art revitalization, religious freedom, cultural patrimony and repatriation issues
- Public policy, including state laws affecting tribes, public health, water, natural resources, police protection, land use with a focus on preserving cultural and biological resources, and
- Health, emphasizing public health, children, primary care, and preventative medicine
The center is already actively involved with the local community through the Site Monitor Certification Program: An American Indian Affairs Curriculum Project to Design and Deliver Basic and Advanced Site Monitor Courses. This is a partnership project funded jointly between the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the Costo Endowment. The intention of the program is to fuse the interests of sovereign Indian peoples protecting their cultural patrimony with the scientific expertise of professional anthropologists and archaeologists within a student-centered educational program. The prime objective is to create a tribally-focussed, academically validated site monitor certification program through the UCR Extension that will not only meet high professional standards, but will serve as the gold standard for the region, state, and nation.

The faculty is also active in promoting native issues through conferences and colloquium. Examples include a series of talks dealing with Native responses to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, with Professor Edward Castillo, the first Native American to receive an M.A. in history from UCR, giving a talk entitled “Sacrificing Ishi: Terror among California’s Indian People.” Other recent lecturers have included Michael McNally, Micheline Pesantubbe (Choctaw), Mary Churchill (Cherokee), the managing editor of News from Native California, Margaret Dubin, Rebecca Bending (Yakima), Board Member of the Endangered Language Fund and Ken Casto (Sac and Fox of Missouri), Grants administrator of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla. Additional forthcoming events include Red Rhythms in the Summer of 2002, a conference organized by Professors Michelle Raheja (Seneca) and Jacqueline Shea Murphy and graduate student Tharon Weighill (Chumash). The Conference will deal with Native American dance form and representation. Prominent dance scholars and practitioners from Canada and the United States will be attending. Professor Cliff Trafzer is project director of an international symposium titled “Boarding School Blues: Reconsidering the Indian Boarding School System,” due to take place in November, 2002. This conference has special significance for Riverside, as the city is the home of Sherman Indian School, one of the few remaining Indian boarding schools in operation. The school recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary.

Professors Raheja, Trafzer, McGarry, and Trafzer have been awarded a UCR Center for Ideas and Society Resident Fellowship for the fall of 2002. This award will enable all four members to take leave from teaching to concentrate on a project titled “Native American Studies in the Twenty-First Century: Activism, History, Spiritually, Literature.” Throughout the project all four professors will be working to question and complicate existing models of scholarship within the field of Native American Studies, while at the same time mapping out fresh ways of approaching subjects that impact Native American communities.

Professor Joel Martin is currently involved in two further projects including the construction of A Virtual Center Web, http://www.nativeamerican.ucr.edu and http://www.americanindian.ucr.edu. Both sites are due to come on-line in the summer of 2002. This has been made possible by a $3500 grant from the
2001-2002 campus-wide Innovative Uses of Computing in Instruction Competition. He is also involved with Professor Sharon Salinger of the history department in promoting “Honoring Tribal Elders and Institutions: Sovereignty over the Past, Knowledge for the Future,” a symposium due to take place on April 27th. The symposium will feature speakers Dr. Eric Elliott, Dr. Deborah Dozier, Dr. Lowell Bean, Dr. Michael Hammond, and John Gomez, Jr. Panels will discuss issues related to revitalizing and reclaiming the native heritage of California Indians. The symposium’s plenary speaker will be Horace Axtell, Nez Perce Elder, who will be presenting a talk on ‘Preserving and Renewing Culture.’

One student at UCR currently involved in the program is graduate student Leleua Loupe, research associate for the Costo Historical and Linguistics Research Center, who is currently involved in an internship at Sherman and was recently honored by UC President Richard Atkinson for her outstanding research. Leleua worked on a museum exhibit of the San Jacinto Valley. Her main aim when presenting her research was to insert the native voice into the region’s history through the help of her mentor, Clifford Trafzer. She was able to perform a number of oral interviews with tribal elders from the Cahuilla people of the region. A second student of note is Anthony Madrigal (Cahuilla). Anthony, who holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from the University of California Los Angeles, will soon become the first Native Californian to gain his Ph.D. from the Native American History Program. While pursuing his studies, Anthony has continued to work for the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians on water rights and other environmental issues and is co-author of *Chemeheuvi People of the Coachella Valley*.

Other current students include:

Ian Chambers is researching Cherokee and Muskogee concepts of ethnic identity during the eighteenth century. Ian is a British student presently completing his Ph.D., and recently presented his work at the 2001 Ethnohistory conference and at the Harvard International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, as well as being the author of this article.

Robert Perez (Apache) is researching Native American resistance movements and traditions toward the Spanish, Mexican, and American governments and settlers in the Mexican Northwest/American Southwest. He is completing his Ph.D. in History and interviewing for a position at UCSD.

Carrie McLachlan is researching Cherokee concepts of place during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Kathleen Dailey is researching the creation of race in the colonial period, concentrating on the Irish, Native Americans, and African Americans as “Races”

Adam Hungate is researching nuclear exploitation of Navajo laborers in and around uranium mines and consequences for residents during the twentieth century.

Dawn Marsh Riggs is researching Indian women during the Colonial Era who continued to live in the British colonies in the eighteenth century after
most of their nations moved westward. She is writing her dissertation and teaching at San Diego State University.

Rob McCoy is researching Nez Perce Indian history and the way in which Nez Perce and non-Nez Perce have presented the tribe's past. He is teaching at California State University, San Bernardino.

Thomas Long is researching the history of Graton Rancheria of Northern California and the effects of environmental and food changes on their history, diets, and diseases.

Raul Chavez is researching the ways in which film images of Indians reinforce paternalistic assumptions of Anglo American viewers.

Milo Alvarez is researching the relationships between the Chicano Brown Power movement and the American Indian Movement with particular emphasis on Chicanos and their identity as persons descended from Native Americans.

Cyndy Leigh is researching a lumber "company town" located on the White Mountain Apache Reservation during the twentieth century.

Larry Leach is researching the relationship of Texas Rangers with Comanches and Kiowas.

Theron Weighill (Chumash) is researching Chumash Indian dances.

Teresa Lorden, Anthropology is researching the history of California Archaeology.

Pedro "Pete" Vallejo (Navajo) is researching ways for teachers to recognize and work with the culturally specific learning styles of Native American students. Pedro is completing the Ph.D. in Education.

Henri Moore (Cherokee) is working on Native literary issues.

Patricia Ploesch is dealing with issues of Native Americans photography and film.

The University has also been successful in placing its graduates, as the following sample listing shows

Donna Akers (Choctaw): teaching at Purdue University in History; her book, Living in the Land of the Dead is forthcoming.

Jean Keller: research on the health of students at Sherman Indian Institute, a non-reservation boarding school; she is an independent research historian and archaeologist. Her book will appear in Fall 2002.

Joel Hyer: research on the history of the Pala Indian Reservation; his book: We Are Not Savages, appeared in 2001. He teaches history at Chadron State University in Nebraska.

Scott Andrews (Cherokee): Ph.D. English, in Native American Literature. Teaching at California State University Northridge


Deborah Dozier (Anthropology), The Heart is Fire: The World of the Cahuilla
Indians of Southern California (Heyday Books, 1998). A graduate of the anthropology department, Deborah continues to visit the university and consult on basketry and other matters.

Current core faculty include (details supplied by individual faculty):

Professor Clifford E. Trafzer – History
(http://history.ucr.edu/faculty/trafzer.html)

Raised in Arizona, Clifford Trafzer was born to parents of Wyandot Indian and German-English blood. He earned a B.A. and an M.A. in history at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where he also worked as an archivist for Special Collections. He earned a Ph.D. in American history in 1973 with a specialty in American Indian history and the same year became a museum curator for the Arizona Historical Society. Before joining the faculty of the University of California, Riverside, in 1991, Trafzer taught at Diné College (Navajo Community College), Washington State University, and San Diego State University. Trafzer’s research focuses on Native American history and culture. His books, Kit Carson Campaign: The Last Great Navajo War and Yuma: Frontier Crossing of the Far Southwest, were published in 1981. His co-authored work, Renegade Tribe: The Palouse Indians and the Invasion of the Inland Pacific Northwest, appeared in 1986 and won the Governor’s Award for the best non-fiction in Northwestern history. He has published several books and articles with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Philosophical Society, and American Council of Learned Societies. In 1994, he won the Penn Oakland Award for his edited collection of contemporary native literature, Earth Song, Sky Spirit. His works include Grandmother, Grandfather, and Old Wolf: Tamánwit Ku Súdat and Traditional Native American Stories From the Columbia Plateau, Death Stalks the Yakama: A Social-Cultural History of Death on the Yakama Indian Reservation, 1888-1964; Exterminate Them!, and most recently, the textbook As Long as the Grass Shall Grow

Professor Rebecca “Monte” Kugel – History
(http://history.ucr.edu/faculty/kugel.html)

Rebecca (“Monte”) Kugel was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on August 10, a significant date in Native American history, as the Great Pueblo Revolt of 1680 began on August 10. This fact had absolutely no bearing on her decision to become an Indian historian, however, since she only learned of it in graduate school. Her extremely varied ethnic background, including two Native American tribal groups (Ojibwe and Shawnee) plus French, Irish, German, Jewish, Danish and Polish ancestry, is more likely the cause, as it gave her many questions to which there were no readily available answers. She attended the University of Iowa, receiving a B.A. in English with a history minor in 1974. Several years working with Native American organizations convinced her that the present is not knowable without knowledge of the past, so she entered the UCLA graduate program in history. She earned her M.A. in 1978 and her Ph.D. in 1986. Her research focuses on the Great Lakes region generally and the Ojibwes of
Professor Michelle Hermann Raheja – English
(http://www.english.ucr.edu/raheja.html)

Michelle Raheja (Assistant Professor of English, Ph.D., 2001, University of Chicago) was raised in the rural Midwest on the banks of the Illinois River. Her father, a German-American gunsmith and bow-and-arrow deer hunter, and her mother, a Seneca born with an aversion to camping, taught her early on about the contradictions and fluidity of identity. Michelle Raheja works in early American and Native American literature, with a special interest in autobiography and film. Her dissertation, “Screening Identity: Beads, Buckskins, and Redface in Autobiography and Film,” explores the discursive arenas which opened up for Native American celebrities beginning in 1492 and culminating in the late twentieth-century. This project is rooted in her work on the early American Colonial period, the Federal period, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature. She recently published an essay on Jeannette Armstrong’s novel Slash, and is currently at work on a study of Iron Eyes Cody and ethnic impostors. Professor Raheja’s training and teaching experience cover all periods and genres of American literature up to the present, with special emphasis on Native American literature. She offers graduate courses in Native American literary theory and criticism and undergraduate courses in Native American autobiography and the literature of the early American colonial period (fifteenth through nineteenth centuries).

Professor Jacqueline Murphy – Dance
(http://www.dance.ucr.edu/people/murphy.html)

Jacqueline Shea Murphy is Assistant Professor in the dance department at UCR, where she teaches courses in dance history and theory. She is co-editor of the collection Bodies of the Text: Dance as Theory, Literature as Dance (Rutgers UP, 1995). Shea Murphy received her Ph.D. from the English department at UC Berkeley, with a dissertation that looks at performance structures in U.S. literatures. Her areas of specialization include U.S. dance history, performance theory, cross-cultural approaches to dance, “race” and representation in dance, Native American studies, feminist and gender studies, U.S. ethnic literature, and fiction writing. She is also a teacher and practitioner of Iyengar yoga.

Professor Shea Murphy is currently working on a critical study of Native
American dance in and as history. Her interests in this project include the history of federal relationships to American Indian dance practices, white modern dancers’ representations of “Indian” dance, issues and problems in ethnographies of American Indian dance, and contemporary Native American stage dance.

Professor and Costo Endowed Chairholder Joel W Martin – History and Religious Studies and (http://history.ucr.edu/faculty/martin.html)

Joel Martin grew up in Opelika, a small town in Alabama, not far from the battlefield where Muskogee Indians fought Andrew Jackson’s invasionary army in 1814. In his youth, he heard a lot about the American Civil War and, not coincidentally, experienced firsthand the ideological contests swirling around and within the modern civil rights movement. Martin studied philosophy and religion at Birmingham-Southern College, German at Essens Universität, and theology at Harvard Divinity School and later Harvard University. After receiving his doctorate in religion and history at Duke University, he taught for a dozen years at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 2000, Martin joined the departments of history and religious studies at UCR.

Martin’s research recovers how different peoples responded to contact and colonialism in America and interprets how the memory or suppression of this history relates to power, defines communities, and shapes religious life, narratives, art, and politics. He is the author of Sacred Revolt: The Muskoge's Struggle for a New World (Boston, 1991), and Native American Religion (New York, 1999). He co-edited Screening the Sacred Religion, Myth, and Ideology in Popular American Film (Boulder, 1995). He is currently researching the lives of New Englanders and Cherokees involved in an early mission, writing a book on landmarks of American religious history, and directing an editorial project dealing with Native America. Martin has received research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Princeton University.